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Getting your eye in (or being able to see what you are looking at)

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Editorial

It seems like summer was just here a moment ago. Yet days are now much shorter and Christmas seems to be fast approaching with some items on sale already... In this issue we fight this kind of time warp and focus on the reports of some YESS members about interesting activities they did this summer. We hope that the experience and knowledge they gained this summer will bring new ideas for your own research and/or inspire you to share your own insights with the YESS community. There is much we can learn from each other that we cannot communicate in our papers. We hope to provide you with a platform to share your experience, opinions and/or concerns that arise from doing research on ecosystem services. We would like to thank all the contributors to this issue (and previous issues) for taking the lead on this, and hope to receive additional interesting stories for the newsletters to come!

André Mascarenhas & Samantha Scholte

ALTER-Net Summer School: Challenge your knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Julia Clause^a, Klara Winkler^b, Matías Guerrero^c and Yennie Bredin^d

We participated in this year's [Alter-NET Summer School](#) in Peyresq, France. During ten days in September, we were part of an international group of 28 students, five tutors and three conveners to critically discuss current issues about biodiversity and ecosystem services (ES). The [programme](#) was built around talks in the morning, poster presentations about our research projects, a simulation of an EU research project and two excursions: a hiking trip and a visit to local stakeholders in the Verdon Catchment area. At the start of the school, about half of us students had a positive view of ES while the rest was confused or skeptical. The invited speakers definitely impacted and challenged our perspectives by, for example, making us think about ES and their practical use, potential misuse through shifts in understanding biodiversity or the role of ES at the science-policy interface (cf. IPBES). What was particularly great was to spend more time with the speakers as most of them stayed for two or three days. This created the 'Peyresq atmosphere': sharing meals and having a beer at night with an expert definitely gives more space and time to process, ask and answer questions.



Participants of the Alter-Net Summer School – 2015 Edition in Peyresq, France. © Allan Watt

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ES activities

ALTER-Net Summer School: Challenge your knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services (cont.)

In our simulated research project ShiVa (Safeguarding human wellbeing and biodiversity in the Verdon catchment), we tried to identify and assess key ES, describe drivers impacting them, draft a scenario and give policy recommendations. We were divided into five groups: *Biodiversity*, *Provisioning*-, *Regulating*-, and *Cultural ES*, and a *Synthesis* group that organised the project work and gathered all the information to create a synthesis to give back to stakeholders and policy makers. In the end, we all managed to present our findings in a scientific presentation and in a creative way with a theatre play, in which all of us were part of the staging.

For us, the ALTER-Net Summer School was a great success. We definitely learned about different interpretations and applications of the ES concept, the need to transfer knowledge at the science-policy-society interface and the obligation to critically question our underlying assumptions. During the ten intensive days, we also made great friends on a personal and professional level, giving us not only a great summer school experience but also a true network for life. Last but not least, the enthusiasm and cohesion among tutors and conveners themselves greatly facilitated the cohesion of our 2015 batch!

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“Getting your eye in” (or being able to see what you are looking at)

Katie Horgan*



This summer I finally visited the forests in Malaysia that are part of the research programme I work in.

That visit opened my eyes to the importance of knowing your study system. That sounds ridiculous as I write it. I do know this. I know it from previously working as a ranger in the UK in places where you wouldn't expect to find

rangers but where a strong connection to place and to the people who live there is essential to doing the job. If I hadn't both known and cared about where I was working, it would have been impossible for me to engage and work with local communities. In fact, in some cases it almost was because I had too many places to be and not enough time to get to know them properly.

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ES activities



“Getting your eye in” (or being able to see what you are looking at) (cont.)

So what does this mean in the context of my ‘ecosystem services’ leaning work right now? Well for a start I realise there is some déjà vu here – again I have probably too many places to be – and they are far more difficult to get to!

Secondly, it means that I have to ‘get my eye in’ for each of the research sites. I need to see the sites from local perspectives – sites in Malaysia, in Switzerland, in Russia, in China – and that’s not easy from such a distance. But by letting myself take the time to speak to people, to listen to what they care about and to what is important for them, I make it easier for myself. Of course, finding those people takes time but the investment is absolutely worth it. Some of these key people are here, in my research programme, some of them are not but they are connected to the programme.

My conversations on this first trip have already changed the direction of my work and I suspect this will continue to happen as I talk to more people.

And finally, getting a grip on the ‘big picture’ – the historical context, the political climate, local traditions, the food, the sounds and the smell of a place – are fundamental to my ability (or lack of) to represent the sites. Everything has a unique context and ecosystem services work is about far more than counting the number of trees.

**University Research Priority Programme, Global Change and Biodiversity, University of Zürich*

Building up a national ESP network in Germany

Matthias Schröter*

I am involved in setting up a national ESP network in Germany to build a German community of practice around ecosystem services. At a first meeting in April 2015 scientists from different universities and research institutes as well as representatives of environmental NGOs, a farmer association and a state ministries were present. We have drafted a mission statement and a website will soon follow. With the help of this website we aim to foster and expand the network, and hopefully also involve YESS fellows from Germany.

**UFZ- Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig and iDiv – German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research, Leipzig*

Publications

Recent publications from YESS members

Amin A, Zaehringer JG, Schwilch G, Koné I (2015). People, protected areas and ecosystem services: a qualitative and quantitative analysis of local people's perception and preferences in Côte d'Ivoire. *Natural Resources Forum*, 39(2): 97–109 ([Link](#)).

Bhatta LD, van Oort BEH, Stork NE, Baral H (2015). Ecosystem services and livelihoods in a changing climate: Understanding local adaptations in the Upper Koshi, Nepal. *Int. J. Biodivers. Sci. Ecosyst. Serv. Manag.* 11(2): 145–155 ([Link](#)).

Carvalho-Santos C, Nunes JP, Monteiro AT, Hein L, Honrado JP, (2015). Assessing the effects of land cover and future climate conditions on the provision of hydrological services in a medium-sized watershed of Portugal. *Hydrological Processes* (in press) ([Link](#)).

Derkzen ML, van Teeffelen AJA, Verburg PH (2015). Quantifying urban ecosystem services based on high-resolution data of urban green space: an assessment for Rotterdam, the Netherlands. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 52: 1020–1032 ([Link](#)).

Kenter JO, O'Brien L, Hockley N, Ravenscroft N, Fazey I, Irvine KN, Reed, MS, Christie M, Brady E, Bryce R, Church A, Cooper N, Davies A, Evelyn A, Everard M, Fish R, Fisher JA, Jobstvogt N, Molloy C, Orchard-Webb J, Ranger S, Ryan M, Watson V, Williams S (2015). What are shared and social values of ecosystems? *Ecological Economics*: 111, 86–99 ([Link](#)).

Kenter JO, Fazey IR (2015). Conservation, Culture, Kids and Cash Crops in the Solomon Islands. In: Redpath SM, Gutiérrez RJ, Wood KA, Young JC (Eds), *Conflicts in Conservation: Navigating Towards Solutions*, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge ([Link](#)).

Reed MS, Kenter JO (2015). Valuing the Dark Peak: A Deliberative Approach to Payments for Peatland Ecosystem Services. *Moors for the Future / Peak District National Park*, Edale ([Link](#)).

Schröter, M., and R. Remme. 2015. Spatial prioritisation for conserving ecosystem services: comparing hotspots with heuristic optimisation. *Landscape Ecology*, 1-20. ([Link](#))

Van Oudenhoven APE, Siahainenina AJ, Sualia I, Tonneijck FH, van der Ploeg S, de Groot RS, Alkemade R, and Leemans R (2015),. Effects of different management regimes on mangrove ecosystem services in Java, Indonesia. *Ocean & Coastal Management* 116: 353-367 ([Link](#)).

van Oudenhoven APE, Veerkamp CR, Alkemade R, Leemans R. (2015). Effects of different management regimes on soil erosion and surface runoff in semi-arid to sub-humid rangelands. *Journal of Arid Environments* 121: 100-111 ([Link](#)).

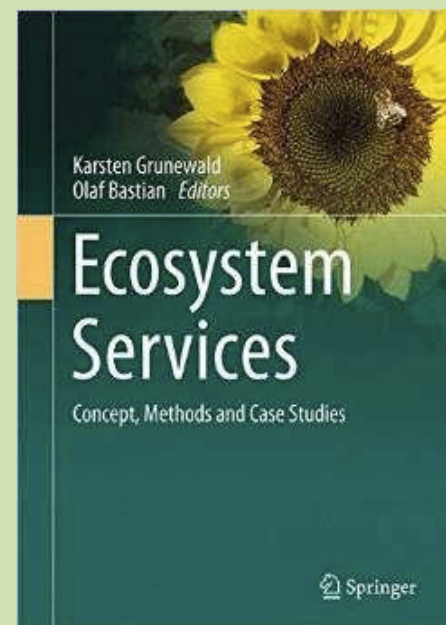
Publications and events

Book suggestion

Ecosystem Services - Concept, Methods and Case Studies

Editors: Karsten Grunewald, Olaf Bastian | Publisher: Springer

Major international studies, such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, have addressed the enormous role of biodiversity and ecosystems to human well-being, and they draw particular attention to the consequences resulting from the reduction or loss of these services. These very topical issues are being addressed by authors/scientists in a wide variety of disciplines – and their approaches, terminologies and methodological specifics are just as diverse. What, for example, does the efficacy of nature or natural capital mean? Which values of nature are particularly important, how are they distributed in space and time and how can they be assessed and the relevant knowledge promoted?



[Link](#)

Can all ecosystem services be quantified and even monetarised? What should be done to ensure that the multiple services of nature will be available also in future? This book explains the multifaceted concept of ecosystem services, provides a methodological framework for its analysis and assessment, and discusses case examples, particularly from Germany. It is addressed to scientists and practitioners in the administrative, volunteer and professional spheres, especially those who deal with environment, landscape management and nature conservation and regional and land-use planning. The target group includes experts from the business community, politicians and decision makers, students and all those interested in fundamental ecological, economic, ethical and environmental issues.

Conference announcements

Living Planet Symposium. Prague, Czech Republic. 9 – 13 May 2016 ([Link](#))

22nd International Sustainable Development Research Society Conference – Rethinking Sustainability Models and Practices: Challenges for the New and Old World Contexts. Lisbon Portugal. 13 – 15 July 2016 ([Link](#))

European Ecosystem Services Conference 2016. Antwerp, Belgium. 19 – 23 September 2016.